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Moral decay

Preamble to the fall

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for July 6, 1980
Scripture references: II Kings 23:36 to 25:30; II Chron. 36
Focal passage: II Kings 29:15 to 25:1, 8-12
Preamble to the fall (II Kings 24:18-20)

We who live in freedom and have never known the horrors of war on our own soil, can't possibly imagine the trauma of those who are victims of war. Our lesson this week brings us to the final curtain of Judah's glorious history.

We will note that Judah's fall came on the heels of sin, disobedience, and denial of God's rightful place in Judah's history. King Zedekiah continued the evil ways of his predecessors, ignoring the prophetic warnings and the historical trends of the times.

It is a strange phenomenon to watch as some people destroy themselves in spite of warnings. It appears for some persons as if they actually have a "death wish" towards self-destruction.

Each of us may be faced with choices that are potentially destructive, and despite the warnings of those who look on with sorrowful eyes, we make the plunge. We get first what we set ourselves up to receive, and this is in direct line with the biblical principal which says, "that which a (person) sows, that shall (they) also reap."

Zedekiah helped bring about ruin to his own country. He "sold his soul" to King Nebuchadnezzar of Egypt through agreeing to a peaceful co-existence; but he did not remain faithful to the agreement and, so, brought down the wrath and fury of the Egyptian army. The Lord's response to the unfaithfulness of the people and the king was to wipe them from his presence. Little did Zedekiah know that he was setting the stage for divine judgement.

Storming the fortress [II Kings 25:1-7]

War brings its horror, in terms of both destruction of life and property. The fall of Jerusalem not only saw the death of people, but a long-established city lay in ruins. But the horrors of destruction should not occupy our total concern for we cannot overlook the reasons behind Jerusalem's seige.

The fall of Jerusalem reminds us of the distinction between obedience and rebellion, righteousness and sin, and God's rule over that of kingly rules. Judah's sinful tracks soon led her to destruction and waste.

The city was blockaded by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar. In time the land among a foreign people.

The overriding problem that helped bring about the downfall of Judah was the people's choice to decide their own destiny, as opposed to following God's destiny for them. As with Judah, so it is for us. God has a plan for our life; but we must choose whether we shall involve ourselves in that plan. And God wants only the best for us, and to enjoy his best we must give him our best.

(Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.)

The Bible and daily living

Egyptian forces brought havoc to the city and its inhabitants. Zedekiah attempted to return the fight but was later captured in Jericho. The closing events of his life cause us to shudder.

Zedekiah was forced to watch as his two sons were brutally slain. Then he was blinded and chained and taken to Babylon, where he remained in prison until he died.

Destruction and deportation [II Kings 25:8-12]

War is cruel, inflicting pain on the innocent who are at the mercy of those who make war. It is sad when more time and dollars are spent in preparing than for making peace.

The beautiful city of Jerusalem was demolished, its walls broken down and the valuables of the Temple removed to Babylon.

The people were deported to Babylon, an experience that was surely heartbreaking. The events are summed up in the biblical description, "so Judah was carried away out of their land."

The people were stripped of their homeland, their possessions, their Temple, and their nation. They were carried away into a foreign

Ruritans take calender orders

The Concord Ruritan Club is now canvassing the community taking orders for its 1981 Community Birthday Calendar.

Anyone interested in buying a calendar should contact one of the six team captains - David Martin, Onyx Metz, Hunter Evans, Ed Drinkard, Eddie Gunter Jr., and Lewis Bryant, or any other club member.

Proceeds will be used for the building fund.

What does July 4 mean to you?

By REX J. BENNETT
Scripture Reading - Joshua 4:1-9

On Friday, July 4, as we celebrate our nation's 204 birthday, this Scripture from the book of Joshua proposes a similar situation in which we find ourselves in this country.

The Israelites had been set free from captivity in Egypt, and now, Joshua, their new leader, has led them across the Jordan River into the land of promise. Joshua then said to the people: "Take out twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan River and build there a memorial at Gilgal; and when your children shall ask you in the days to come, What Mean These Stones, tell them what God has done for you."

And in a very real sense, this nation came out of captivity! And what do we answer our children when they ask, What Does July 4 mean What Do These Stones Really Mean? As Adults, as Parents, as Citizens of this great country, what do we answer them? Obviously, July 4 has to do with our nation's heritage, with our roots, those things for which our forefathers were willing to die and for which we should be willing to live. It has to do with our freedom under God, those inalienable rights of every American citizen.

So then, when your children ask: What Does July 4 Mean - What Do These Stones Mean? - tell them about our great heritage, the inalienable rights of every citizen!

This great heritage is contained in three significant documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. How long has it been since you read these documents? Obviously, we cannot tell anyone what July 4 means unless we ourselves know what it means. Read these documents soon; and read of the men who wrote them, men who were willing to risk their "lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor."

And when your children ask: What Does This Day Mean, tell them of the worth of the individual, that man was created in the image of God; tell them of the inalienable rights of every citizen; tell them that man is not a thing to be used or abused by government or state.

The pastor speaks

And tell them from whence our democracy was born - tell them where such men got such revolutionary ideas about freedom for all. Tell them that such ideas were born out of the Christian faith and in the idealism of the Bible itself. Tell them that this nation came into being under God, and that our responsibility to God is to "heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, to set at liberty those who are bound."

On this Friday, July 4, if someone ask us: What Does It All Mean - God grant that no adult citizen shall be caught empty-headed about the answer to that question.

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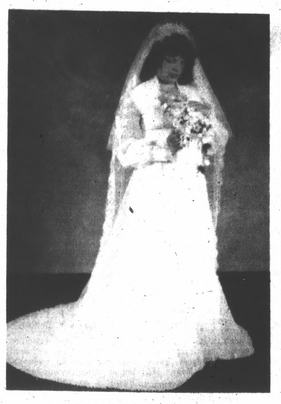

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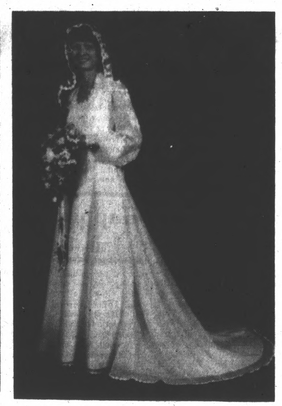

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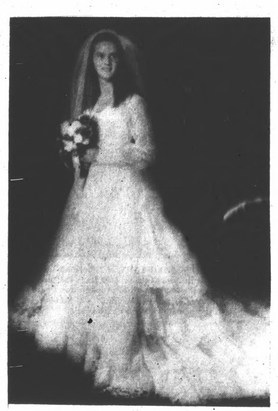

Mrs. Eric Todd Roach

Mrs. Ronald Wayne Cyrus
(photo by Photo Gallery)

Miss Massey is wed to Mr. Fears

Miss Shelia Mae Massey of Pamplin became the bride of Mr. Mark Anthony Fears June 29 in a double-ring ceremony at the Piney Ridge Methodist Church.

The Rev. George Harris of Spring Creek Baptist Church officiated at the 4 p.m. ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Massey, Jr., of Pamplin. She was given in marriage by her father.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Fears. Mr. Fears was his son's best man.

Lisa Bryant of Cullen, Va. was the bride's honor attendant. Other attendants were Susan Cobb, Norma Fears, Lisa Nash and Connie Atkins.

Ushers were John Lee Fears, Bruce Wade, Pudden Moore, and Sam Bailey.

The flower girl was Ann Hampton Brown of Lynchburg, and the ring bearer was Ryan Atkins of Charlotte Court House.

A reception was held in the basement of the church after the wedding. Louise Rosser and Margaret Garrison were the mistress of ceremonies and director of the reception.

The bride is a 1979 graduate of Randolph-Henry High School. The groom is a 1978 of Randolph-Henry High School.

After a wedding trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., the couple will make their home in Pamplin.

Couple will celebrate anniversary

D. H. and Vera Cyrus will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary Sunday, July 6 in the fellowship hall of the Spout Springs Baptist Church.

The celebration will take place between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

All friends, relatives and neighbors are invited to attend, and the couple asks that no gifts be brought.

Mawyers announce birth

Mr. and Mrs. James Mawyer announce the birth of a son, Benjamin Lee, born June 15 at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Benjamin weighed 7 pounds and 1 ounce.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Donoughe of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and paternal grandmother is Delsie Harrup of Buckingham, Va.

Society News

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Giles and family of Newport News visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lee Burke, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. David M. Trent.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Burke, Mrs. Georgia Giles of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Giles and family of Newport News visited Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Woody and infant daughter, Ashley in Richmond on Sunday.

Miss Williamson weds Mr. Phelps

The marriage of Miss Susan Lynn Williamson to Mr. Edward Arnold Phelps took place Saturday evening in Red Oak Baptist Church, Oakville.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert L. Williamson and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Enid Phelps, all of Appomattox.

The Rev. G. Edward Hughes officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents.

Mrs. Lee West of Appomattox was matron of honor and bridesmaids were Mrs. E. B. Drinkard of Appomattox, sister of the bride; Mrs. Terry Falwell of Lynchburg, sister of the bride; Mrs. LeRoy Ferguson of Lynchburg, sister-in-law of the bride; and Mrs. Janice Hobbs of Viola, Tenn., cousin of the bride.

Miss Tracy Falwell of Lynchburg, niece of the bride, was flower girl, and Mitchell Lee West of Appomattox, was ring bearer.

Mr. Phelps was best man for his son and ushers were Keith Coleman and Lee West of Appomattox, LeRoy Williamson, brother of the bride, and Terry Falwell, brother-in-law of the bride, all of Lynchburg.

The bride's dress was fashioned of white organza and Venice lace. The empire bodice was finished with a Queen Anne neckline and long Bishop sleeves. Appliques of lace were scattered over the bodice and sleeves. The skirt was full floor length, ending in a chapel train. The hemline was edged with lace.

The wedding veil was of fingertip-length mantilla, the edge cut in scallops and edged with lace.

The attendants' dresses were all alike of mint green qiana. The draped empire bodice was finished in back, with a deep cowl neckline. The skirt was full floor length.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Williamson entertained with a reception in the fellowship hall of the church.

The bride was graduated from Appomattox County High School and received a B.S. degree in elementary education from Longwood College. She is a teacher in the Appomattox County school system.

Her grandparents are Mrs. W. L. Williamson of Appomattox and the late Mr. Williamson, and Mrs. Dillard Rogers of Viola, Tenn. and the late Mr. Rogers.

The bridegroom was graduated from Appomattox County High School and is a senior systems programmer with Babcock and Wilcox Co.

After a wedding trip to Kiawah Island, S.C., the couple will live in Buckingham.

Miss Handy is wed to Mr. Roach

The marriage of Miss Peggy Irene Handy to Eric Todd Roach took place Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Bible Baptist Church in Appomattox.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lee Handy, Sr, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Allen Roach, all of Appomattox.

The Rev. Ron Gallagher, pastor of Appomattox Baptist Temple, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents.

The bride wore a lace on lace bouffant gown in pure white with a face framing Queen Anne neckline of chantilly lace, tipped in pearls. The soft lace bishop sleeve gently cuffed with a chantilly border lace. The front overskirt cut away and edged in chantilly border to reveal in ruffled lace underskirt. The chapel length train was row after row of chantilly lace ruffles and lace bordered organza ruffles.

Her veil, a juliet cap, was decorated with matching chantilly lace and attached bridal illusion.

She carried a bouquet of white roses, babies breath and daises.

Mrs. Herbert Lee Handy, Jr., sister-in-law of the bride, was matron of honor. She wore a floor length gown of soft rose. She carried a bouquet of silk roses and daises with ribbon of white and rose. The bridesmaids also wore floor length gowns matching that of the matron of honor. They carried bouquets of silk roses and daises with rose colored ribbons.

Bridesmaids were Miss Sharon Roach of Appomattox, sister of the groom; Miss Glenda Doss of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, and Miss Theresa Holt of Pamplin.

Mr. Roach was his son's best man. Ushers were Mr. Herbert Lee Handy, Jr. of Appomattox, brother of the bride; Mr. Ralph Handy of Appomattox, brother of the bride; Mr. Byron Roach of Appomattox, cousin of the groom, and Mr. Jeff Lipscomb of Phenix, Va., cousin of the groom.

They wore black tuxedos with white ruffled shirts and black bow tie.

Miss Melissa Doss of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, was flower girl and Chris Smith of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, was ring bearer.

The bride's mother wore a floor length dress of peach and the groom's mother wore a floor length dress of light blue.

Mrs. Patsy Pierce, Miss Kathy Johnson and Miss Susan Johnson provided the music for the occasion.

Miss Robin Bollinger of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, registered the guest and Miss Tammy Ferguson of Vera, honored each guest with a scroll.

After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Handy entertained with a reception at the Woodman of the World in Appomattox.

The bride is a graduate of Appomattox County High School and is employed by King's Market. The bridegroom, also a graduate of Appomattox County High School, is employed by his father.

After a short wedding trip to Va. Beach, the couple will make their home in Appomattox.

Miss Harvey weds Mr. Cyrus

The marriage of Miss Beverly Dianne Harvey to Ronald Wayne Cyrus took place at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, June 29 in Evergreen United Methodist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Harvey of Evergreen and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton W. Cyrus of Appomattox.

The Rev. Thomas Boggs, pastor of the Callaghan United Methodist Charge in Covington, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents.

Mrs. Linda H. Dyer of Richmond was her cousin's matron of honor, and attendants were Mrs. Cindi W. Hanayik of Richmond, Mrs. Sharon P. Lester of Forest, and Miss Marlene Moore of Appomattox, cousin of the bride.

Mr. Cyrus was best man for his son and ushers were Clayton W. Cyrus, Jr. of Appomattox, brother of the bridegroom, Daniel P. Harvey, II of Evergreen, brother of the bride, and Curtis T. Mayberry, Jr. of Appomattox.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Harvey entertained with a reception in the church social hall.

The bride is a graduate of Appomattox County High School and Longwood College where she majored in Chemistry and Home Economics.

The bridegroom was graduated from Appomattox County High School and is employed by Limi-Torque Corporation of Lynchburg.

After a wedding trip to the Bahamas, the couple will live in Concord.

Shower honors Miss Woodson

Miss Connie Frances Woodson was honored with a miscellaneous shower at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, on June 23.

Honoring Miss Woodson were her aunt, Mrs. Sandra Woodson, and great aunts, Mrs. Dorothy Hunter and Mrs. Christine Harvey.

Guests included Mrs. Sammy Woodson, mother of the Bride, and Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, grandmother of the bride, as well as numerous relatives and friends.

Miss Woodson's marriage to Mr. Edward Alvin Hall was an event of Saturday, June 28 at 7 p.m. in Reedy Springs Baptist Church, Spout Springs.

Turnes family plans reunion

The families of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clay Turnes, will have their annual family reunion on Sunday, July 13, at the Woodmen of the World building.

Family members will gather at the WOW at 12:30 p.m. and plan to serve lunch at 1 p.m.

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